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Application No.: 10/657,354

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Docket No.: 480062002500

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A dividing element for use with a split-tip catheter, comprising a bendable body having a proximal end and a distal end, said body comprising a first opening and a second opening spaced apart from one another by a distance sufficient to ensure that an inner surface of a first tip section of the split-tip catheter is separated from an inner surface of a second tip section of the split-tip catheter when said body is positioned therebetween.

2. (Original) The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said first tip section has a length less than a length of said second tip section, and wherein said distance is greater than or equal to the length of said first tip section.

3. (Currently amended) The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein a tension is created between at least one of said first and second openings and the respective tip section inserted therethrough.

4. (Original) The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said distal end is configured for attachment to a packaging tray.

5. (Original) The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein a distance between said first opening and said proximal end is less than a distance between said second opening and said distal end.

6. (Original) The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said first and second openings comprise slits.

7. (Original) The dividing element according to claim 6, wherein said slits are in the shape of an "X".

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8. (Original) The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said body has a length in the range of approximately 1 inch to 20 inches.

9. (Original) The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said body is comprised of polyethylene.

10. (Original) The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said body further comprises a weakened area between said first and second openings.

11. (Original) The dividing element according to claim 1, wherein said body further comprises a weakened area between at least one of said openings and an edge of said body.

12. (Currently amended) In combination a split-tip catheter and a dividing element, said dividing element comprising a bendable body having a proximal end and a distal end, said body comprising a first opening and a second opening spaced apart from one another by a distance sufficient to ensure that an inner surface of a first tip section of the split-tip catheter is separated from an inner surface of a second tip section of the split-tip catheter when said body is positioned therebetween.

13. (New) A catheter system, comprising:  
a split-tip catheter; and  
a dividing element configured to maintain a separation between a first tip section and a second tip section of the split-tip catheter, the dividing element comprising a bendable body including a first opening spaced apart from a second opening, the body interposed between the first and second tip sections when at least one of the first and second tip portions is received through at least one of the first and second openings.

14. (New) The catheter system according to claim 13, wherein one of the first and second tip sections is received through both the first and second openings.

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15. (New) The catheter system according to claim 13, wherein the first tip section is received through the first opening and the second tip section is received through the second opening.

16. (New) The catheter system according to claim 13, wherein the dividing element is interposed between and extends along a longitudinal length of the first and second tip sections.

17. (New) The catheter system according to claim 13, wherein the dividing element is selectively detachable from the split-tip catheter.

18. (New) The catheter system according to claim 13, wherein the dividing element is attached to the split-tip catheter during storage and removed before use of the split-tip catheter.

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